GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:852
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2016
Ground Water in Shekhawati Area
Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground water level in Rajasthan particularly in Shekhawati area is depleting very fast;
(b) if so, the facts thereof;
(c) whether the Government is implementing any action plan to arrest decreasing ground water level; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount released during the last three years for the purpose along with current year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out ground water monitoring on regional scale through a network of observation wells in the Country including Rajasthan. Ground water level data for pre-monsoon 2016, compared with decadal mean of pre-monsoon (2006-2015) in respect of the State of Rajasthan, indicates that out of total wells analyzed, around 58% wells show decline in ground water level and 42% wells show rise in water level. The Shekhawati area, falling in Northern Rajasthan comprises of four districts viz. Churu, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur and Sikar. The area, particularly Sikar and Jhunjunu districts are showing decline in ground water level of more than 4 metre below ground level, during pre-monsoon 2016, when compared with decadal average of pre-monsoon (2006-2015).

(c) Several measures have been taken up by the Central Government to arrest decreasing ground water levels in the Country:

â€¢ "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" has been prepared, which envisages construction of different types of Artificial Recharge and Rainwater Harvesting structures in the Country.

â€¢ Special focus is given through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water. In addition, priority has been given for construction of farm ponds in the year 2016-17 to harvest rain water.

â€¢ MoWR, RD & GR has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting.

â€¢ CGWB has undertaken the Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Projects during XI Plan under the Scheme of "Ground Water Management & Regulation", in priority areas.

â€¢ CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed at delineating aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans.

â€¢ MoWR, RD & GR has also launched "Jal Kranti Abhiyan" (2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the Country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. "Jal Gram Yojana" component of "Jal Kranti Abhiyan" envisages selection of two villages in every district, preferably "over-exploited " or facing acute water scarcity, as "Jal Grams" to ensure optimum and sustainable utilization of water.

(d) During XI Plan, Demonstrative Artificial Recharge Projects were taken up under Central Sector Scheme "Ground Water Management & Regulation". Under the scheme, 36 artificial recharge projects were sanctioned for Rajasthan, out of which, 6 projects were sanctioned particularly for Shekhawati area (Nagaur districts).

During XII plan, in the years 20 2-13, 2013-14 & 2014-15, Rs. 10.28 lakh, Rs.38.80 lakh and Rs.58.62 lakh have been released as spill over for the State of Rajasthan, under the scheme. No funds have been released during 2015-16 and current year. The scheme on Artificial Recharge project has been discontinued during the XII Plan period.

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